

FRANK LESLIE'S ILLUSTRATED



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A WORD ABOUT OURSELVES.

The extraordinary popularity of FRANK LESLIE'S ILLUSTRATED NEWSPAPER is shown in the fact, that it has reached the enormous circulation of

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY THOUSAND COPIES,

which circulation is steadily increasing throughout the country. The penalty of this success is to have imitators whose business it is to take advantage of other people's industry, enterprise and originality. When we entered upon the noble enterprise of establishing an Illustrated Paper, worthy of the intelligence and growing wealth of an American public, pioneer as we were in the field, it was not entered upon without the most enlarged preliminary experience, and the gathering together of the thousand appliances necessary to insure success. All that could be done to secure literary and artistic ability was achieved. Correspondence with every part of the world was arranged for—and the whole spirit that animated us was to present the best possible paper, utterly regardless, so far as we were concerned, of expense, personal ease, or extraordinary pecuniary reward.

With ample resources at our command, and mechanical appliances for printing such as are possessed by no other printing office in the world, we have left all attempted competition immeasurably in the background, and have the proud satisfaction of knowing that our paper is not only on a paying basis, but if we were disposed to exult over the failures of those who

have attempted to unfairly follow in our footsteps, we might seek consolation in the fact, that we have the only American Illustrated Paper that yields a profit to its owners—a paper that each week adds to its strength, and is soon destined to exist without a noticeable rival in the field. The immense popularity of *Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper* among other triumphs created a demand among our intelligent and numerous German population, which resulted in the issuing of the Illustrated News in German, giving us command of the first paper in the country printed in two languages. So successful has been the *Illustrirte Zeitung*, that from its first number to the present, it has had not only a paying demand, but has greatly exceeded this desirable point, and seems likely soon to be the most widely circulated paper printed in German published in the United States.

As an evidence of our untiring industry, and our determination to make a paper worthy of the most liberal patronage, we appeal to the pages of the present number. But a few hours after the arrival in New York of the first rescued passengers of the *Central America*, we had our artists at work, we secured the only original drawing ever made of the ship, and from one of the surviving passengers obtained a sketch of the appearance of the sea immediately after the vessel disappeared beneath the waves. By working night and day we were enabled to get these pictures out with almost the rapidity of the mere printed report. Pursuing our labors, we have been able to present

pages of illustrations connected with this direful calamity, exhibiting an industry, taste, and resources such as were never displayed and brought successfully to bear by any other paper whatever.

THE KING OF THE PEAK;

OR,

THE HIDDEN MINE.

CHAPTER I.

Can gold calm passion, or make reason shine?
Can we dig peace, or reason, from the mine?
Wisdom to gold prefer; for 'tis much less
To make our fortune than our happiness.—YONGE.

THERE is, perhaps, no portion of Europe more remarkable for the sublime grandeur of its mountain scenery than that part of the French Alps which extends between Grenoble and Briançon. The great majority of travellers in Dauphine content themselves with visiting the romantic gorges of the Grand Chartreuse, or the beautiful valley of the Grésivaudan, but few have the courage to penetrate amidst these formidable mountains, which have hitherto been less explored by our countrymen than the most abrupt parts of Switzerland and Savoy. The valleys of La Grave and La Guisanne are the most frequented parts of the country to the north-west of Briançon; at every step a picturesque tableau arrests the traveller's attention. Here a village seems almost buried at the bottom of a



THE "CENTRAL AMERICA" ENGLUPHED IN THE OCEAN "ABOUT EIGHT O'CLOCK" THE SHIP BEGAN TO SETTLE RAPIDLY, WHEN SHE MOMENTARILY RIGHTED AND WENT DOWN STERN FOREMOST.